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Agenda item 99

Training and research

Report of the Second Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. José Alberto **Briz Gutiérrez** (Guatemala)

I. Introduction

1. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 19 September 2003, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its fifty-eighth session the item entitled:

"Training and research:

"(a) United Nations Institute for Training and Research;

"(b) United Nations System Staff College in Turin, Italy"

and to allocate it to the Second Committee.

2. The Second Committee considered the item at its 22nd, 24th, 30th, 36th and 37th meetings, on 27 October, 3 and 7 November and 9 and 11 December 2003. An account of the Committee's discussion of the item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/58/SR.22, 24, 30, 36 and 37). Attention is also drawn to the general debate held by the Committee at its 2nd to 6th meetings, from 6 to 9 October (see A/C.2/58/SR.2-6).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (A/58/183);

(b) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the first report of the Director on the work, activities and accomplishments of the United Nations System Staff College (A/58/305 and Corr.1);

(c) Letter dated 14 July 2003 from the Permanent Representative of Morocco to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the final

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communiqué adopted by the Chairmen/Coordinators of the Chapters of the Group of 77 at their thirty-fourth meeting, held at Geneva on 26 and 27 June 2003 (A/58/204).

4. At the 22nd meeting, on 27 October, introductory statements were made by the Executive Director of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research, the Director of the United Nations System Staff College in Turin and the Assistant Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Inter-Agency Affairs of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (see A/C.2/58/SR.22).

II. Consideration of proposals

A. Draft resolutions A/C.2/58/L.28 and A/C.2/58/L.53

5. At the 30th meeting, on 7 November, the representative of Morocco, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "United Nations Institute for Training and Research" (A/C.2/58/L.28), which read:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Recalling* its resolutions 51/188 of 16 December 1996, 52/206 of 18 December 1997, 53/195 of 15 December 1998, 54/229 of 22 December 1999, 55/208 of 20 December 2000, 56/208 of 21 December 2001 and 57/268 of 20 December 2002,

"*Welcoming* the recent progress made by the United Nations Institute for Training and Research in its various programmes and activities, including the improved cooperation that has been established with other organizations of the United Nations system and with regional and national institutions,

"*Expressing its appreciation* to the Governments and private institutions that have made or pledged financial and other contributions to the Institute,

"*Noting with concern* that contributions to the General Fund have not increased, while the participation of the developed countries in training programmes in New York and Geneva is increasing,

"*Noting also* that the bulk of the resources contributed to the Institute are directed to the Special Purpose Grants Fund rather than to the General Fund, and stressing the need to address that unbalanced situation,

"*Noting further* that the Institute receives no subsidy from the United Nations regular budget and that it provides training programmes to all Member States free of charge,

"*Reiterating* that training activities should be accorded a more visible and larger role in support of the management of international affairs and in the execution of the economic and social development programmes of the United Nations system,

"1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;

"2. *Reaffirms* the importance of a coordinated, United Nations system-wide approach to research and training, based on an effective, coherent

strategy and an effective division of work among the relevant institutions and bodies;

"3. *Also reaffirms* the relevance of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research in view of the growing importance of training within the United Nations and the training requirements of States and the relevance of the training-related research activities undertaken by the Institute within its mandate;

"4. *Welcomes* the progress made in building partnerships between the Institute and other organizations and bodies of the United Nations system with respect to their training programmes, and in this context underlines the need to develop further and to expand the scope of those partnerships, in particular at the country level;

"5. *Also welcomes* the establishment of the Institute's training office at Hiroshima, Japan;

"6. *Requests* the Board of Trustees of the Institute to continue to ensure fair geographical distribution and transparency in the preparation of the programmes and in the employment of experts, and in this regard stresses that the courses of the Institute should focus primarily on development issues;

"7. *Renews its appeal* to all Governments, in particular those of developed countries, and to private institutions that have not yet contributed financially or otherwise to the Institute, to give it their generous financial and other support, and urges the States that have interrupted their voluntary contributions to consider resuming them in view of the successful restructuring and revitalization of the Institute;

"8. *Encourages* the Board of Trustees of the Institute to continue its efforts to resolve the critical financial situation of the Institute, in particular with a view to broadening its donor base and to increasing the contributions to the General Fund;

"9. *Also encourages* the Board of Trustees to consider diversifying further the venues of the events organized by the Institute and to include the cities hosting regional commissions, in order to promote greater participation and reduce costs;

"10. *Expresses the need* to take action to resolve expeditiously the rent, the debt, rental rates and maintenance costs, taking into account the Institute's financial situation;

"11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report to it at its fifty-ninth session on the implementation of the present resolution, including details on the status of contributions to and the financial situation of the Institute."

6. At the 37th meeting, on 11 December, the Vice-Chairperson of the Committee, Ulrika Cronenberg-Mossberg (Sweden), introduced a draft resolution entitled "United Nations Institute for Training and Research" (A/C.2/58/L.53), which she submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/58/L.28.

7. At the same meeting, the Committee was informed that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications (see A/C.2/58/SR.37).

8. Also at the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/58/L.53 (see para. 16, draft resolution I).

9. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/58/L.53, draft resolution A/C.2/58/L.28 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

B. Draft resolutions A/C.2/58/L.21 and A/C.2/58/L.47

10. At the 24th meeting, on 3 November, the representative of Italy, on behalf of the European Union and the acceding countries (Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia), and Kazakhstan, introduced a draft resolution entitled "United Nations System Staff College in Turin, Italy" (A/C.2/58/L.21). Subsequently, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia joined in sponsoring the draft resolution. The draft resolution read as follows:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Recalling* its resolutions 54/228 of 22 December 1999, 55/207 of 20 December 2000 and 55/258 of 14 June 2001,

"*Recalling also* its resolution 55/278 of 7 August 2001, by which it approved the statute of the United Nations System Staff College,

"*Reaffirming* the role of the Staff College as an institution for system-wide knowledge management, training and continuous learning for the staff of the United Nations system, in particular in the areas of economic and social development, peace and security and internal management,

"*Having considered* the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the first biennial report of the Director of the Staff College on the work, activities and accomplishments of the College, pursuant to paragraph 6 of resolution 55/278,

"1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the Secretary-General's note and the accompanying report;

"2. *Welcomes* the progress made by the United Nations System Staff College, since the entry into force of its statute on 1 January 2002, in pursuing the objectives set forth therein;

"3. *Calls upon* all organizations of the United Nations system to make full and effective use of the facilities of the Staff College;

"4. *Invites* the Staff College, in developing and implementing its work programme, to focus, inter alia, on activities that can serve to maximize system-wide coherence and effectiveness in supporting the coordinated and integrated follow-up to conferences, including, in particular, the United Nations Millennium Declaration, and improving service delivery to Member States;

"5. *Encourages* the Staff College to provide strategic leadership in order to increase operational effectiveness, promote inter-agency collaboration and strengthen management culture by its own example, including the development of new systems of performance management, flexible and

collaborative work structures and cost-effective means of delivering services to clients and beneficiaries;

"6. *Calls upon* relevant institutions of the United Nations, including the United Nations University, the United Nations Institute for Training and Research and the Staff College, to collaborate closely to these ends;

"7. *Welcomes* the financial and other support extended by Member States to the work of the Staff College, and invites the international community to strengthen its support for the College, through voluntary contributions in accordance with article VII of the statute, to enable the College to consolidate its distinctive contribution to fostering a cohesive management culture across the United Nations system that is responsive to the requirements of Member States;

"8. *Invites* the Secretary-General to submit in due course a report on the work, activities and accomplishments of the Staff College to the Economic and Social Council."

11. At the 36th meeting, on 9 December 2003, the Vice-Chairperson of the Committee, Ulrika Cronenberg-Mossberg (Sweden), introduced a draft resolution entitled "United Nations System Staff College in Turin, Italy" (A/C.2/58/L.47), which she submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/58/L.21.

12. At the same meeting, the Committee was informed that the draft resolution contained no budget implications.

13. Also at the same meeting, the representatives of Chile and the Russian Federation made statements.

14. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft reso ution A/C.2/58/L.47 (see para. 16, draft resolution II).

15. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/58/L.47, draft resolution A/C.2/58/L.21 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

III. Recommendations of the Second Committee

16. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

Draft resolution I
United Nations Institute for Training and Research

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 51/188 of 16 December 1996, 52/206 of 18 December 1997, 53/195 of 15 December 1998, 54/229 of 22 December 1999, 55/208 of 20 December 2000, 56/208 of 21 December 2001 and 57/268 of 20 December 2002,

Welcoming the recent progress made by the United Nations Institute for Training and Research in its various programmes and activities, including the

improved cooperation that has been established with other organizations of the United Nations system and with regional and national institutions,

Expressing its appreciation to the Governments and private institutions that have made or pledged financial and other contributions to the Institute,

Noting with concern that contributions to the General Fund have not increased, while the participation of the developed countries in training programmes in New York and Geneva is increasing,

Noting that the bulk of the resources contributed to the Institute are directed to the Special Purpose Grants Fund rather than to the General Fund, and stressing the need to address that unbalanced situation,

Noting that the Institute receives no subsidy from the United Nations regular budget and that it provides training programmes to all Member States free of charge,

Reiterating that training activities should be accorded a more visible and larger role in support of the management of international affairs and in the execution of the economic and social development programmes of the United Nations system,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[1]

2. *Reaffirms* the importance of a coordinated United Nations system-wide approach to research and training, based on an effective coherent strategy and an effective division of work among the relevant institutions and bodies;

3. *Also reaffirms* the relevance of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research in view of the growing importance of training within the United Nations and the training requirements of States and the relevance of the training-related research activities undertaken by the Institute within its mandate;

4. *Welcomes* the progress made in building partnerships between the Institute and other organizations and bodies of the United Nations system with respect to their training programmes, and in this context underlines the need to develop further and to expand the scope of those partnerships, in particular at the country level;

5. *Also welcomes* the establishment of the Institute's Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific in Hiroshima, Japan;

6. *Requests* the Board of Trustees of the Institute to continue to ensure fair and equitable geographical distribution and transparency in the preparation of the programmes and in the employment of experts, and in this regard stresses that the courses of the Institute should focus primarily on development issues and the management of international affairs;

7. *Renews its appeal* to all Governments, in particular those of developed countries, and to private institutions that have not yet contributed financially or otherwise to the Institute, to give it their generous financial and other support, and urges the States that have interrupted their voluntary contributions to consider resuming them in view of the successful restructuring and revitalization of the Institute;

[1] A/58/183.

8. *Encourages* the Board of Trustees of the Institute to continue its efforts to resolve the critical financial situation of the Institute, in particular with a view to broadening its donor base and to increasing the contributions to the General Fund;

9. *Also encourages* the Board of Trustees to consider diversifying further the venues of the events organized by the Institute and to include the cities hosting regional commissions, in order to promote greater participation and reduce costs;

10. *Stresses* the need to take action to resolve expeditiously the issues related to the Institute's rent, debt, rental rates and maintenance costs, taking into account its financial situation, and welcomes the consideration of these issues by the Fifth Committee;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report to it at its fifty-ninth session on the implementation of the present resolution, including details on the status of contributions to and the financial situation of the Institute.

Draft resolution II
United Nations System Staff College in Turin, Italy

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 54/228 of 22 December 1999, 55/207 of 20 December 2000 and 55/258 of 14 June 2001,

Recalling also its resolution 55/278 of 7 August 2001, by which it approved the statute of the United Nations System Staff College,

Reaffirming the role of the Staff College as an institution for system-wide knowledge management, training and continuous learning for the staff of the United Nations system, in particular in the areas of economic and social development, peace and security and internal management,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the note by the Secretary-General and the accompanying report; [1]

2. *Welcomes* the progress made by the United Nations System Staff College since the entry into force of its statute on 1 January 2002 in pursuing the objectives set forth therein;

3. *Calls upon* all organizations of the United Nations system to make full and effective use of the facilities of the Staff College;

4. *Invites* the Staff College, in developing and implementing its work programme, to focus, inter alia, on activities that can serve to maximize system-wide coherence and effectiveness in supporting the coordinated and integrated follow-up to conferences, including, in particular, the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[2] and improving the delivery of services to Member States;

5. *Encourages* the Staff College to provide strategic leadership in order to increase operational effectiveness, promote inter-agency collaboration and strengthen management culture by its own example, including the development of new systems of performance management, flexible and collaborative work structures and cost-effective means of delivering services to clients and beneficiaries;

6. *Calls upon* relevant institutions of the United Nations, including the United Nations University, the United Nations Institute for Training and Research and the Staff College, to collaborate closely to those ends;

7. *Welcomes* the financial and other support extended by Member States to the work of the Staff College, and invites the international community to strengthen its support for the College through voluntary contributions, in accordance with article VII of the statute, to enable the College to consolidate its distinctive contribution to fostering a cohesive management culture across the United Nations system that is responsive to the requirements of Member States;

8. *Invites* the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination, in accordance with article X of the statute, to make a recommendation that the report of the Secretary-General submitted pursuant to article IV, paragraph 5, of the statute be submitted to the Economic and Social Council rather than to the General Assembly.

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[1] A/58/305 and Corr.1.

[2] See resolution 55/2.